

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

GAHAN, R. et al.

Atty. Ref.: 922-151

Serial No. unknown

Group:

Filed: January 17, 2002

Examiner:

For: NETWORK AREA STORAGE BLOCK AND FILE AGGREGATION

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January 17, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

3. A storage area network according to claim 1 in which the functional unit provides a pointer to an application buffer and data from the remote storage server is placed directly into the application buffers from received transport protocol data units.

6. A method according to claim 4 in which each file is given a device identifier and the block level aggregator process has a total logical block to device identifier and block mapping database and a device mapping database with pointers to the record of block locations.

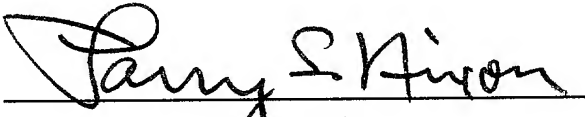
1004673.0102

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

3. A storage area network according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ in which the functional unit provides a pointer to an application buffer and data from the remote storage server is placed directly into the application buffers from received transport protocol data units.

6. A method according to claim 4 ~~or claim 5~~ in which each file is given a device identifier and the block level aggregator process has a total logical block to device identifier and block mapping database and a device mapping database with pointers to the record of block locations.